



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

SELECT COMMITTEES MEETING #654

Friday, February 7, 2002 – 2 P.M.

**Department of Veterans Affairs Headquarters, 1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA**



OPENING COMMENTS/ INTRODUCTIONS:

The California Veterans Board (CVB) informal hearing was called to order at 2:00 p.m. California Veterans Board members present included Chairman George Sinopoli (Fresno), Vice Chair Edward Feldman (Westlake Village), Members Jerry Basconcillo (Delano), Judy Gaze (San Diego) and Larry Lattman (California Veterans Home in Yountville). Legal Counsel Joe Maguire and CVB Executive Officer Earl Steck were also present. Leo Burke (Stockton) was excused.

Chairman Sinopoli welcomed the new Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, K. Maurice Johannessen. Secretary Johannessen made some remarks, promising operational restructuring and vowing to continue pressing for veterans' issues.

SELECT COMMITTEES REPORTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Annual Report – Jerry Basconcillo, Chair: Mr. Basconcillo explained that the California Veterans Board Annual Report to the State Legislature 2002/2003 version is now being worked on.

Contract Review - Jerry Basconcillo, Chair: No contracts for review at this time.

Veterans Services – Glen Halsey, Chair: Mr. Halsey was asked to review the college fee tuition waiver program, towards making it more inclusive to dependents of veterans with service-connected disability. In view of current legislative environment, and budget restrictions it was recommended the issued be placed on the table for additional research for the present time.

Legislation – Leo Burke, Chair: Mr. Burke was excused from this meeting. There are 6 or 8 bills being tracked in the Legislature.

Veterans Homes - Larry Lattman, Chair: Mr. Lattman said the four projects they have going on at the Yountville facility are on schedule. They are: Jefferson Hall, Lincoln Theatre, Coffee Shop, and Recreation Room in main hospital.

He shared his concern over the shortage of workers at facility. Secretary Johannessen listed approved positions to be filled. In reference to the Barstow and Chula Vista homes, Secretary Johannessen said that corrections have been made, and in fact were made before the latest incident. Mr. Sinopoli mentioned changing policy C-7 re: land use. Ed Feldman brought up some issues related to criteria for admission to the Veterans Homes. Recommended having a more clearly defined written policy.

Farm and Home - Judy Gaze, Chair: Ms. Gaze reported that the Cal-Vet loan program was able to lower the interest rate on new loans, and increased loan amount to over \$300,000, surpassing the loan amount available from the federal VA. Her focus, she said, would continue to structure the Cal-Vet loan program to help young veterans. Homes in most of the coastal areas and high-cost areas like San Diego are not affordable to them. Keeping them in California, and making them happy to be stationed at a base in California is something we need to focus our programs on.

Ms. Gaze turned the podium over to Glen Rimbey, manager of the Home Protection Unit, for information on the insurance programs. He said it appeared that this year our disaster premiums would be reduced. Mr. Rimbey then introduced Cathy McLaughlin from Marsh, the Departments insurance broker at the present time. She spoke of terrorism coverage, which includes domestic acts coverage for a premium of \$125,833 for coverage of \$20 million, which Ms. McLaughlin remarked was very inexpensive, and recommended its' purchase. No change in cost to veterans will occur. Judy Gaze said it would be voted on the next day.

Appeals – George Sinopoli, Chair: Chairman Sinopoli asked for reports on appeals.

Board Member Basconcillo reported on an appeal by Richard Hauch from denial of admission to the Veterans Home at Yountville. The appeal is being reviewed, and there will be a recommendation next meeting.

Board Member Feldman reported on an appeal by John Griffin from denial of admission to the Veterans Home at Yountville. Dr. Feldman said he the Home could not provide for the requirements of this veteran.

Recognitions and Awards – George Sinopoli, Chair --Jerry Hansen, leaving for the Department of Defense, was thanked for his service and presented with a plaque.

Policy and Procedures – Edward Feldman, Chair: Dr. Feldman said the Board Policy Manual would require study for a while. It must be consistent with existing state and federal law as it applies to the Military Veterans Code and requires legal review.

Farm & Home - Bruce Thiesen, Deputy Secretary of Operation: The Deputy Secretary opened with words of praise for the new Secretary, saying that we were fortunate to have a man of Secretary Johannessen's stature, experience and expertise with the Department. He announced that the new Division Chief of the Farm & Home Division is Jerry Jones. Spoke of need to extend veterans eligibility date for GO bond loans so that recent veterans are also able to use this program. The Department wishes that we could allow refinancing, but that takes legislation, which we are working on. Mr. Thiesen stated that loan applications are up just a little, and reviewed the new Cal-Vet interest rates. Life and disability insurance was turned over to Standard Insurance. Application by Internet is still 30-60 days off.

In response to a question re: the successor to H.R. 959 from Board Member Judy Gaze, Mr. Thiesen said in was sitting in committee at the Way and Means Committee in Washington, D.C., and encouraged anybody with connections to encourage the chairman, Congressman Bill Thomas of Kern County, to allow the bill on the floor. John Fitzke of the VFW asked the Deputy Secretary why we are unable to allow refinancing. Judy Gaze said if we could H.R. 959 changed, then we could use the unrestricted money that is currently being used for younger veterans' loans broken free and used for refinancing.

OPEN FORUM

Chairman Sinopoli recognized John Fitzke of the VFW, a former Board Member, who voiced his organization's support of Secretary Johannessen. He said it seems like the homeless veterans are getting all the attention in the world. He wants to bring our veterans community into a better focus, and shine some light on the positive programs of the VFW, the Legion and others.

Chairman Sinopoli recognized Don Carr of the Napa Valley Museum, located at the Veterans Home at Yountville. Mr. Carr stated that the facility's lease has 17-18 years left, with a 20-year option. He said that everyone there is concerned with extending the lease, so that they would get enough use out of it to justify the \$20 million being raised through private funds. Objections have been raised that the Museum is an ugly building. The Board of Directors of The Museum agree, and would like to make the new building more architecturally compatible with the Veterans' Home, then after that is complete, go back and redo the old building to match the rest. The Board would like the lease extended for another 22 years. Dr. Feldman asked whether the Museum content was compatible with veterans themes. Mr. Carr responded that there is a permanent display, and they could do a larger one if more material were available. Judy Gaze brought up the request for a cap on the lease compounding increase from 5% to 1%. She thought it should be tied to the commercial rate, but Mr. Carr disagreed. The proposed expansion would be approximately 30,000 square feet, with additional parking needed.

Chairman Sinopoli recognized Kevin O'Connor from the DVBE Alliance. Mr. O'Connor spoke of the DVBE program, and how it helps veterans help themselves become business owners. He said that 70 State departments did not report their DVBE participation, and would like to urge the Board to encourage them to do so. He also asked to be put on the agenda for future meetings to report on the DVBE program.

The Chairman recognized Alison Boyle, DVBE owner and Alliance member. Mr. Boyle said that he has been involved in the program for ten years, and it is still not widely understood how it is supposed to work. The Department of General Services started a program "Accountable" about three years ago that the CDVA is part of, and has had 5 chiefs in its three years. He said the DVBE knew for a fact that the reports were not accurate and had not been passed on to the DVBE

Chairman Sinopoli recognized Bob Terry, staff to assemblywoman Pat Wiggins. Mr. Terry referred to when he had asked Secretary Vargas whether the reserve money for the Life and Disability Insurance has ever been used for anything other than Life and Disability Insurance. He wasn't happy with the answer, and apparently the funds were used to lower the interest rate in 1996. He asked if these monies should not be returned to the reserve fund, and the disability coverage restored to levels similar to what it was for 20 or so years.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Feldman informed the Board that they are in the process of a state-mandated audit, which will continue for several months.

Chairman Sinopoli talked about the budget for the Veterans' Board, and the things that have been done to reduce costs. They are cutting two Board meetings a year, which will save approx. 9% on each meeting, and holding meetings in Sacramento would save 16%. Estimated reduction of expense for the Board meetings to be approx. 40%.

Chairman Sinopoli adjourned the meeting.

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
MINUTES OF GENERAL SESSION #654
Saturday, February 8, 2003 – 9:00 AM
Department of Veterans Affairs
Sacramento, California

GENERAL SESSION:

The California Veterans Board (CVB) monthly public meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Board members present included Chairman George Sinopoli (Fresno), Vice Chairman Edward Feldman (Westlake Village), Members Jerry Basconcillo (Delano), Judy Gaze (San Diego) and Larry Lattman (California Veterans Home in Yountville). Leo Burke (Stockton) was excused.

Bruce Thiesen led the invocation. R. F. Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Sinopoli introduced the members of the Board; Joe Maguire, Legal Counsel to the Board; and CVB Executive Officer Earl Steck.

Secretary Johannessen introduced his staff.

The audience introduced themselves.

MOTION passed to approve minutes from the CVB meetings of December 6-7, 2002.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY:

Member Jerry Basconcillo reported attending the Board meeting in Yountville and a press conference for Assembly Speaker Wesson and Assembly Member Nicole Parra.

Member Larry Lattman reported also attending the Board meeting in Yountville, and came to Sacramento to see Secretary Johannessen on issues relating to the home at Yountville.

Member Ed Feldman attended the Yountville meeting, had a meeting with Secretary Johannessen and Assistant Attorney General Diane Cuomo, attended a meeting in Los Angeles at the Commission of Military and Veterans Affairs and met with the CEO of the West Los Angeles Medical Center in ongoing talks to keep apprised of the situation there as to health care programs.

Member Judy Gaze attended the Yountville meeting, and attended the County of San Diego Veterans Advisory Council meeting.

Chairman Sinopoli reported he conducted the December Board meeting, was present for the new Secretary's swearing in ceremony, met with U.S. assembly people at press conferences in Fresno reference to creating a Fresno Veterans Home, and was out of state for the month of January.

REPORTS:

(Status of CDVA Division / Select Cal Vet Board (CVB) Committees / Special)

VETERANS HOMES OF CALIFORNIA, CDVA DIVISION:

Reorganization: Tom Kraus, Undersecretary, reported on the reorganization of the Veterans Homes. Commenting on the difficulty of keeping qualified staff when the positions do not pay enough to attract qualified people from outside professions. He stated that there is not a headquarters office worthy of the size of the organization in terms of the numbers of veterans we serve in the Homes Division. He said that baseline studies of all the Homes had been done and looked very hard at the organizational structure, with the conclusion being that we need to align the organization more with the industry we are in. In Barstow, we have made a number of changes that hopefully you should be able to see shortly. In Chula Vista, we did notify Licensing last week that we were to come back and hopefully give us approval for the second 60 beds in the nursing home. Yountville will have its' first skilled nursing facility administrator. Chairman Sinopoli asked Mr. Kraus what the attitude of the state Department of Health towards the Barstow incident. Mr. Kraus said we received a citation and he thinks they realize major changes have occurred. Chairman Sinopoli asked if the Federal Veterans' Administration would still give California funds. Mr. Kraus said US DVA did survey us last week, giving us a clean bill of health. Judy Gaze asked about the reimbursement collections of Medicare and how that affects what we're doing in the Homes now. The undersecretary said we're pressing on this issue and he thinks we've done better. Management has identified two problems: system problems in the facilities, and Meditech issues. We will change Meditech for a software system that is more affordable and easier to operate. Board Member Larry Lattman asked whether the DHS is following their promise of having the same inspection team come out to the home. The undersecretary said when they respond to calls, you get the luck of the draw, but in general the San Bernardino Office is aware of our history and our current efforts. Board Member Ed Feldman made the point that when assessing policy of care at care facilities, some violation can be found even at the best of places and under the best of circumstances. Mr. Kraus stated that the USDVA and DHS inspections were extremely stringent. He also said that the media doesn't acknowledge this context and we get a bad rap, and we should find a way to illustrate this point without seeming defensive. The chairman asked what the status was on the 5 new homes that were approved by congress. Mr. Kraus said that the USDVA has notified the Department that California tentatively made the cut, the tentative part a reflection of the fact that there is no formal federal budget. Secretary Johannessen made a point about inspections. He said that inspections are designed to find what's wrong and also divest the inspectors of personal interest in the project. The Secretary said that we should not just worry about the things they point out in their reports, but that we should look deeper. Mr. Kraus said that we are getting funded about \$100 million out of \$240 million budget that they anticipate for the new homes. It's a tribute to the fact that California has the highest need projection, and our luck that no other large state came in with a major project this year for us to compete with.

VETERANS HOMES CALIFORNIA, CVB Committee, Larry Lattman. Mr. Lattman said all the projects in Yountville are on schedule. The Yountville home will become the home of Mr. Alejandro Ruiz, a Medal of Honor recipient. This will be the fourth Medal of Honor recipient to reside in the Yountville home.

FARM AND HOME PURCHASES, CDVA DIVISION – Bruce Thiesen, Deputy Secretary of Operations - Mr. Thiesen said that our new Secretary had helped with legislation. One of those bills allows the home improvement interest rate for veterans who have Cal-Vet loans to be set at whatever the current rate is, rather than having it tied to their home loan interest rate.

SB 1251 had a section added to it allowing veterans who own their homes free and clear to borrow money from us for remodels. Re: H.R. 959, the \$100 million bond issue the voters passed in 2000, that money probably won't be used – there are not enough eligible veterans. That makes it important to open up those funds to vets with service from January 1, 1977 to the present, so that we will be able to put more bonds on the market to take care of our present-day vets. Board Member Judy Gaze added that the Federal Legislative/Military Closure Committee is looking into as many base/post closures in 2005 as they did in all the 1990s. She said that she would like to see some kind of partnering with the federal VA or some other way to help service members buy a home so that the objection many have to living in high-cost areas such as San Diego can be overcome.

FARM AND HOME PURCHASES, CVB Committee, Judy Gaze: Ms. Gaze made a motion to accept the terrorism coverage Glen Rimbey and the Marsh representative discussed yesterday.

MOTION passed unanimously to endorse buying the discussed terrorism coverage at the base amount.

VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION – Glen Halsey, Chief - Mr. Halsey was not present.

VETERANS SERVICES, CVB Committee, Veterans Services, Jerry Basconcillo: Mr. Basconcillo said the College Fee Tuition Waiver Program was reviewed in detail by the Department and a group of the County Veterans Service Officers. He reported the federal poverty limit has increased this year from \$8,951 to \$9,214. The work group from California County Veterans Service Officers recommended removing the requirement of “Annual Value of Support,” and to use the “Lower Living Standard Income Level” established by EDD for California instead of the “National Poverty Level” for the “Adjusted Gross Income.” He also reported that the Department and the Veterans Service work group report recommended tabling this issue until additional research can be conducted. Mr. Basconcillo made a motion to table this topic at this time.

MOTION was passed to table the College Fee Tuition topic for additional study.

Mr. Thiesen made the point that previous to Glen Halsey's involvement DVBE participation was at about 2%; last year we were awarded for our efforts, having raised that to 16% DVBE participation.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES, CVB Committee, Edward Feldman: Dr. Feldman reported redraft of policy re: C-7, property or land use. The purpose of this policy is to ensure proper utilization of land that Veterans' Homes of California occupy. The policy statement we'd like to revise it to pending legal review is the following: all plans and/or proposals for utilization of land and/or facilities shall be presented to California Veterans Board prior to further action subject to review by Board's legal counsel.

MOTION passed unanimously to table proposal for review.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT, CDVA – John Hanretty, Chief, Finance Division – Mr. Hanretty said that there were no new contracts at this time, but that between now and July we will probably have 10 new contracts to bring before the Board for review and approval.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT, CVB Committee, Jerry Basconcillo. Mr. Basconcillo said that he had no new contracts at this time.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CDVA – Jerry Jones, Chief of Legislative and Public Affairs, was not in attendance. Secretary Johannessen remarked that there are about 6 or 8 bills working their way through the Legislature, and the deadline to have bills introduced is rapidly approaching, so we will see new ones later this month.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, CVB Committee, Leo Burke. Mr. Burke was excused.

ANNUAL REPORT, CVB Committee, Jerry Basconcillo: Mr. Basconcillo reported that his Committee was working on the 2002-2003 report.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS, CVB Committee, George Sinopoli: Chairman Sinopoli said there were no recognitions or awards to present.

APPEALS, CVB Committee, George Sinopoli:

Board Member Feldman reported that there are two appeals being worked on, Mr. Hauch and Mr. Griffin.

Board Member Ed Feldman stated that he interviewed Mr. Griffin and recommended to uphold his denial. He made a motion to do so.

MOTION passed unanimously to uphold the decision of the California Department of Veterans Affairs denying Mr. Hauch admission to the California Veterans Home at Yountville

LEGAL DIVISION, Joseph Maguire, Deputy Secretary/Chief Counsel: Mr. Maguire reported the current caseload in the Law Division as of the end of January 2003 includes 16 adverse actions, 8 bankruptcies, 1 Board of Control claim, 4 DHS citations, 36 civil litigations, 6 contract reviews, 1 EEOC claim, 1 insurance case, 21 requests for legal opinions, 12 unlawful detainers and 18 miscellaneous cases for a total of 124 cases. Mr. Maguire then did an overview of some of the cases facing the Department. The Debbs case, regarding alleged misuse of funds when we switched from self-insurance program to the one we are currently using, is scheduled for Los Angeles court March 27, and the judge has indicated that he intends to dismiss that case. The Carter case, which is the one from Barstow in which the Department was found liable for over a half million dollars, is on its way to the Supreme Court, where we hope it will be overturned on the basis of Salazar v. Paratransit, in which the Court of Appeals found that there is no third party liability for sexual harassment. There is a AA citation in Barstow now and we have requested a citation review conference with the Department of Health Services. Mr. Maguire noted that Mr. Jerry Hansen was a valuable asset to the Department, and will be missed.

Chairman Sinopoli noted that Mr. Brand was not here, and Mr. Hansen (IG) was present yesterday.

PUBLIC COMMENT – THREE MINUTE LIMIT:

(Board Policy Prohibits Response from Board Members)

Ed Rasmussen said that he was running for 5th Congressional District of Congress, with an eye to working on veterans' rights.

Bob Haley, of the Fleet Reserve Association proposed bill to Assemblywoman Nicole Parra asking support for the Veterans Board to have it's own independent counsel. He heard that the Board already has independent counsel. Chairman Sinopoli confirmed this. He congratulated the Board on that much-needed support and stated he would continue to assist the Veterans Board where possible to insure legislation reinforce the Boards requirements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chairman Sinopoli brought up the California Veterans Board Policy Coordination Review status, and Dr. Feldman replied that nothing more had happened since it was discussed Friday.

Board Member Judy Gaze asked if we had reviewed all the policies, and Dr. Feldman said no. Ms. Gaze recognized it was an ongoing process, and said the Board should make a decision to publish it at some point, and proposed that next meeting we could revisit the policy and get a report. Board Member Joe Maguire stated that sometimes it's a fuzzy line between day-to-day operations and policy, and the Department requires some autonomy in order to carry out its' day-to-day business.

UPDATE ON INTERNAL REPORTS AND AUDITS: John Hanretty, Chief, Finance Division, reported that currently the department only has two audits ongoing. The audit of the California Veterans Board is in process, and the other one is a review by the Office of Audits and State Evaluation of the Department of Finance required by this year's state budget act to review internal controls at the Veterans Homes. They've already been through Yountville and we've received an exit briefing from them, and they are now in the process of going to Barstow and Chula Vista to look at the Veterans homes there. We'll expect some formal report from the Bureau of State Audits in a few weeks.

UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT BUDGET REDUCTIONS: Mr. Hanretty said that the Governor and the administration has really gone to bat for the veterans as a constituency that has been protected during the budget process, and there is still forecast, depending on who you talk to, between \$26 million and \$35 million shortfall over the next year and a half. The Governor's proposals in January were very minor cuts to Veterans Affairs. We did lose a number of positions, there is an \$8 million difference in what we have this year and what we will have next year, but it's primarily due to a depressed forecast for farm and home loans. We are going to lose a couple of positions in Veterans services, and we did lose a number of positions in the Department due to a ruling that says that if a position has been vacant for a continuous 6 month period the controller can eliminate that position. Patient care positions are exempt from that ruling. We lost 20 Farm & Home positions that are worth about a million dollars, we also have lost a variety of positions in the Veterans Homes and administration that are non-patient care. We are learning to more with less, and trying to get freeze exemptions where we can to fill positions that are critical to us. Our reorganization plans are taking these circumstances into account. The budget does contain a massive amount of money for construction of Veterans' Homes. We activated the Veterans Bond Act of 2000 to improve the Veterans' Homes; the Secretary was instrumental in getting that through. We have \$118 million budgeted for capital outlay, \$100 million of which is for the new Veterans' Homes. The bad news for the residents of Veterans' Homes is a proposal that the residents in the Yountville home will have their payments increased from 47.5% of their income to 55% of their income, with a cap of \$1200. Mr. Lattman stated that the proposed changes in fees paid by people in Yountville will affect quality of life for the residents. He said that the average income of the residents in Yountville is \$780, and the proposed reduction will mean \$40-\$50 less per month per vet, which is a lot of money for most of them.

Mr. Lattman said that the federal homes only charge 35% of income, with a cap of \$800, and asked Secretary Johannessen to seek reinstatement of the lower rate. Secretary Johannessen replied that 55%

was unacceptable, but it is early in the legislative process and not to worry too much about it now. He also said that we have enough in our budget to realize the savings necessary.

SCORECARD SYSTEM: Undersecretary Tom Kraus said we plan to simplify the scorecard system and bring a standard set of quality measures to the Homes. He said that the federal government is very sophisticated in how they measure quality, so we don't have to re-invent the wheel; we just need to bring in the data. Update will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Board Member Judy Gaze proposed some ways to save money. She proposed a motion to have more meetings in Sacramento and have the meetings on one full day, rather than over two days. Board Member Joe Maguire brought up the Governor's budget letter 03-02 dated January 29, 2003 indicates that he does not want advisory bodies meeting except once a year because of the budget problem. He said that here is a difference of opinion whether this applies to the Veterans' Board. The chairman stated the Boards independent counsel briefed him that the California Veterans Board was a policy making board and not an advisory board. He accepted the motion with the stipulation that there could be changes ordered from outside the Board.

MOTION passed unanimously to consolidate the meetings into one day and to hold more meetings in Sacramento. (The revised schedule is listed at the end of these minutes.)

Mr. Lattman asked Secretary Johannessen a point of order, what his feeling the attitude the Legislature will demonstrate concerning Veterans Affairs while troops are in the field. The Secretary answered that it was his experience that the Legislature has never been in the mood to oppose veterans legislation if it is well-thought out and logical, and vowed to be there to give his opinion when veterans legislation appear before the Senate and Assembly.

Counsel Joe Maguire brought up issue of the Napa Valley Museum lease. The representative of the Museum, Mr. Don Carr, had asked for a reduction in the lease rate and lengthen the option for the lease. Board Member Larry Lattman made a motion to table the decision on the Museum lease until the Board's next meeting, in order for the Board to acquaint itself with the issues at hand.

MOTION passed, with Chairman Sinopoli casting a No vote.

Chairman Sinopoli asked if there was any further discussion to come before the Board. Audience member Georges Robin, board member of the State of California Military Order of the Purple Heart, brought up the question of whether or not there are too many veterans' homes. He wondered if the department wasn't overextending itself, due to the Chula Vista home not being full and the problems at the Barstow home. Undersecretary Tom Kraus replied that we are an awfully well kept secret, and we take 30 days for admission. The Undersecretary said he thinks there is some room for making us more user-friendly. The Chula Vista open bed numbers are artificial because after the Barstow problems, the Department of Health Services said you cannot open up those beds until you straighten out the problems at Barstow, said the Undersecretary. He also said that he believed the biggest wave of veterans is expected to come through the VA system in 2008, and California has the largest projected unmet need, which is why we got the funds from the 5 new homes this year. Mr. Robin asked if the 2000 bond monies were in danger, since they hadn't been used yet, and Secretary Johannessen replied that was not the case.

John Lowe of the VFW, made the point that the off-site meetings, especially those held at the vets' homes, should be held Saturdays so that younger members can attend.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

All meetings take place on Friday unless notified.

The next meeting of the Board will be on March 7 at VHC-Chula Vista, (San Diego Area). Notice will be provided ten days in advance of the meeting.

Yearly schedule is posted on web site: www.cdva.ca.gov/board

April 11 in Sacramento

May 9 at VHC-Barstow

JUNE NO MEETING

CLOSING REMARKS:**CLOSED SESSION** (if necessary or required)

The general reason or reasons for a closed session, and the specific statutory authority therefore, are (1) to consider the appointment or employment of a public employee under the authority of Section 11126(a) of the Government Code; and (2) to confer with or receive advice from the Board's legal counsel regarding pending litigation under the authority of Section 11126(E)(2)(A), (2)(B), and (3) of the Government Code.

- There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
- These minutes are only a summary of the proceeding and are not reported here verbatim.
- These minutes are posted to the California Department of Veterans Affairs on-line website at www.cdva.ca.gov/board
- Email address for the California Veterans Board is "CalVetBoard@.cdva.ca.gov"

ADJOURNED